

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification by adding or rewriting the following paragraphs as set forth below in marked-up form.

Below the Title of the Invention, please add the following paragraph.

--This application is a 371 application of Application Serial No. PCT/JP2004/018623, filed on December 14, 2004 which is based on Japanese Patent Application No. JP2003-417175 filed on December 15, 2003, the entire contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference--.

Please amend paragraph [0010] to read as follows.

--It is an object of the present invention to provide a thermoplastic resin composition which ~~enables~~ can be used to obtain a molded article that is excellent in mechanical properties of being capable of maintaining the shape of a molded article even when the article is heated after molding, dimensional stability and heat resistance, and particularly excellent in the ability to micro mold and properties at elevated temperature, and a material for substrates and a film for substrates composed by using such a thermoplastic resin composition.

Please amend paragraph [0041] to read as follows.

--The above laminar silicate is preferably a substance which is chemically treated to have improved dispersibility in resin. Hereinafter, the laminar silicate thus treated is also referred to as an organized laminar silicate. The ~~above-mentioned~~ chemical treatment can be performed by, for example, methods of from chemical modification (1) to chemical modification (6) described later. These methods of chemical modification may be used alone or in combination of two or more species of them.

Please amend paragraph [0042] to read as follows.

--The ~~above~~ method of chemical modification (1) is also referred to as a cation-exchange method by a cationic surfactant and specifically a method in which an interlaminar portion of

laminar silicate is cation-exchanged with a cationic surfactant and converted to a hydrophobic substance in advance when obtaining the resin composition of the present invention using a resin of the low polarity. By converting the interlaminar portion of laminar silicate to a hydrophobic substance in advance, an affinity of the laminar silicate for a resin of the low polarity is enhanced and thereby the laminar silicate can be more uniformly dispersed finely in the resin of the low polarity.

Please amend paragraph [0046] to read as follows.

--The ~~above~~ method of chemical modification (2) is a method of chemically treating a hydroxyl group, which exists at the surface of a crystal of an organized laminar silicate prepared by chemically treating the laminar silicate by the method of chemical modification (1), with a compound having one or more functional groups capable of chemically bonding to a hydroxyl group or one or more functional groups having a large chemical affinity for a hydroxyl group on a terminal of a molecule.

Please amend paragraph [0050] to read as follows.

--The ~~above~~ method of chemical modification (3) is a method of chemically treating a hydroxyl group, which exists at the surface of a crystal of an organized laminar silicate prepared by chemically treating the laminar silicate by the method of chemical modification (1), with a functional group capable of chemically bonding to a hydroxyl group or a functional group having a large chemical affinity for a hydroxyl group, and a compound having one or more reactive functional group on a terminal of a molecule.

Please amend paragraph [0051] to read as follows.

--The ~~above~~ method of chemical modification (4) is a method of chemically treating the surface of a crystal of an organized laminar silicate prepared by chemically treating the laminar silicate by the method of chemical modification (1) with a compound having an anionic surface activity.

Please amend paragraph [0053] to read as follows.

--The ~~above~~ method of chemical modification (5) is a method of chemically treating with a compound having one or more reactive functional groups at a site other than an anion site in a molecular chain among the above compound having the anionic surface activity.

Please amend paragraph [0054] to read as follows.

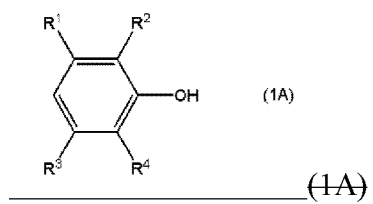
--The ~~above~~ method of chemical modification (6) is a method of using further a resin having a functional group capable of reacting with laminar silicate such as maleic anhydride modified polyphenylene ether resin for an organized laminar silicate prepared by chemically treating the laminar silicate by any one of the methods of from chemical modification (1) to chemical modification (5).

Please amend paragraph [0055] to read as follows.

--The above laminar silicate is preferably dispersed in the resin composition of the present invention in such a way that an average interlayer distance of a (001) plane, measured by a wide-angle X-ray diffraction measuring method, is 3 nm or larger and a part of or all of laminates become a laminate of five layers or less. By dispersing the laminar silicate in such a way that the above-mentioned average interlayer distance is 3 nm or larger and a part of or all of laminates become a laminate of five layers or less, an interface area between resin and laminar silicate becomes adequately large. Further, a distance between crystals of the laminar silicate in flake form becomes optimized ~~proper~~ and effects of improvement in properties at elevated temperature, mechanical properties, heat resistance and dimensional stability by virtue of dispersion can be adequately attained.--

Please amend paragraph [0070] to read as follows.

--[Formula 1]



or a copolymer of polyphenylene ether.